
Dr Mahathir: Umno's line-up approved

By SABRY SHARIF

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno has approved its line-up of MPs and State Assemblymen for the coming polls, its president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Except for one or two constituencies, the final list is ready and "I do not foresee problems arising from this selection," he said.

Dr Mahathir declined to say if there were extensive changes to the line-up compared to the 1986 polls.

"In any election, there is bound to be some slight changes.

"If not, the new faces would be waiting indefinitely and will never be a candidate," he told reporters and asked them to wait for nomination day on Oct 11.

The Umno president was speaking to reporters after chairing a two-hour Supreme Council meeting at

the Putra World Trade Centre.

He later met the respective State Umno chiefs in connection with the candidates' list and election preparations.

Except for former Deputy Prime Minister and MP for Kota Tinggi, Datuk Musa Hitam, Dr Mahathir declined to say if there were other party leaders who would not seek re-election.

He added there was no fixed criteria for replacing Umno MPs and State Assemblymen.

"Even if an MP or State Assemblyman has been an elected representative for several terms, it does not mean that he should be replaced. Some people may stay for one, two terms," said Dr Mahathir.

"In my case, I have stood for election since 1964. If the criteria is to replace MPs or State Assembly-

men who have served several terms, then, I won't be here," he said amidst laughter.

Asked how many Umno Youth members would be contesting as candidates, he quipped: "All of us are young. I am 65 and I am still young."

In the 1986 general election, Umno Youth was allotted 15 Parliament and 35 State seats.

Dr Mahathir also said the meeting discussed and reviewed the final election preparations.

The council members agreed the party was ready for the polls.

Later, Dr Mahathir told reporters after visiting the "Malaysia Capital Growth Opportunities" convention and exposition at the Putra World Trade Centre, only a few adjustments were made to the candidates' list when he met the State Umno chiefs.